

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Preferably, the plurality of web portions extend radially from a substantially central portion that extends in an axial direction with the web portions and the outer portions.

A1 The axial direction of the substantially central portion may be straight or curvilinear. The central portion, the plurality of web portions and/or the ~~radially outer portions~~ outer portions of the unitary tubular member may have a linear or curvilinear trajectory in a radial direction.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2 As shown in FIG. 1, and as more clearly seen in FIG. 2, for example, the outer surface defined by the arched outer portions may form a corrugated configuration, with furrows 18 that align with the plurality of web portions. The extent of the corrugation (furrow 18 depth) may be customized depending upon component-specific service conditions by varying the radial length of selected web portions 12 and the shape and/or thickness of selected ~~radially outer portions~~ outer portions.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A3 The (optional) central portion 20, the plurality of web portions 12, and the outer

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portions 14 are preferably integral portions of the unitary structural member 10. By “unitary”, it is intended to mean that the unitary structural member 10 is formed in a single, integral piece; that is, the unitary structural member is not a fabrication of separate sections. However, individual unitary structural members 10 can themselves be sections of a larger combined structure 22, as shown in FIG. 2. In the arrangement shown in FIG. 2, a pair of unitary structural members 10 having a configuration similar to that shown in FIG. 1, are connected via mating connective structures 24, one of which is more clearly seen in FIG. 7. The connective structures 24 may be integrally formed on one or both ends of the unitary structural members 10. Preferably, the connective structures 24 include a self-registering connector ~~10-26~~; that is, a connector 26 configured to prevent relative rotation of connected members. The self-registering connector 26 may include a male or female connector 28, as shown in ~~FIG.~~ FIG. 7, a pin or other independent connection, or another type of connection. To combine a pair of the unitary structural members 10, the connective structures 24 are connected and preferably adhered, welded or bonded to form the combined structure 22.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

14
FIGs. 5A-5D illustrate an effect of varying the number of web portions 12, where the plurality of web portions and the arched outer portions are disposed about the central portion 20 in generally equal intervals. FIGs. 5A, 5B, and 5C include three, four, and

five web portions 12, respectively. The arched outer portions span between the plurality of web portions 12, forming corrugations in the outer surface 16 of the unitary structural members 10. It will be apparent that as the number of symmetrical web portions 12 increases, the outer surface 16 may become more circular in cross-section. FIG. 4D includes eight web portions 12, and the wall thickness of the web portions 14 and/or the arched outer portions are increased at the circumferential position of the ~~radially outer portions~~ outer portions. This design, as described above, may result in a smooth, continuous outer surface 16, as shown.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIGs. 6A-6D illustrate an effect of varying the number, length, and/or direction of the plurality of web portions 12, and also varying the shape of the ~~radially outer portions~~ outer portions 14 spanning the web portions. FIG. 6A shows six web portions 12 that are disposed unequally about the cross-sectional profile of the unitary structural member 10. The arched outer portions 14 span to connect the web portions 12. In FIG. 6B, seven web portions 12 are shown, and the ~~radially outer portions~~ outer portions 14 vary. Some outer portions 14 are arched, and have a greater wall thickness at the web portions 12 to provide a smooth outer surface 16. Other outer portions 14, however, are not arched, but are straight, providing a rectilinear side to the unitary structural member 10. The web portion 12 extends beyond the outer portion 14 disposed over it to create a T-shape profile 32 at the top (as

AS
cont

shown) of the unitary structural member 10. FIGs. 6C and 6D show variations of the unitary structural member 10 of FIG. 6B, having five and three cavities, respectively, without a web portion 12 extending beyond the outer portions 14.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Ab

In order to be able to present the connection in this prototype in both a welded and a non-welded state, the decision was made to weld two-thirds of the circumference of the joint. The components for the prototype metal unitary structural member having perforated web portions are shown being welded together in ~~FIG.~~ FIG. 28. The slight discoloration of the welded joint visible in FIG. 29 (left) is the result of an immersion heat treatment.
